

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 H-02

A-01 FBO-02 NSC-05 SP-02 /050 R

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APPROVED BY EUR:SOV:MGARRISON

EUR:AAHARTMAN

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

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P 180105Z SEP 76

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231244

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ABLD, UR, US

SUBJECT: EARLY CONSTRUCTION OF SOVIET APARTMENT BUILDING
IN WASHINGTON

REF: A. MOSCOW 12376, B. STATE 194802, C. 75 STATE 276944

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN CALLED IN SOVIET CHARGE
VORONTOV SEP 17 TO GIVE HIM THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO
AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN'S REQUEST TO PROCEED WITH THE APARTMENT
PORTION OF SOVIET EMBASSY COMPLEX BEFORE WE BEGIN CONSTRUCTION ON OUR PROJECT IN MOSCOW (REF B).

2. HARTMAN REAFFIRMED THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFER MADE TO THE
SOVIETS LAST NOVEMBER THAT WE WOULD AGREE TO AN EARLY BEGINNING ON THEIR CONSTRUCTION IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR AGREEMENT TO MEET OUR REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO OUR FUTURE COMPLEX IN MOSCOW AND TO OUR LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS AT THE PRESENT EMBASSY (REF C). HARTMAN POINTED OUT WE WERE SIMPLY ASKING FOR SOME UNDERSTANDING THAT WOULD PUT US IN A MORE
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EQUAL SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO THOSE THINGS THE SOVIETS

ENJOYED ON A ROUTINE BASIS HERE, I.E., HOUSING, SCHOOL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, ETC.

3. HARTMAN SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT MUST GET EXECUTIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT TO DEVIATE FROM THE TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT. THIS IS COMPLICATED BY THE MICROWAVE SITUATION. WE CAN MAKE A CASE FOR EARLY CONSTRUCTION IF WE ARE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE POSITIVE ACTION OR FIRM COMMITMENTS BY THE SOVIETS ON OUR REQUIREMENTS.

4. HARTMAN THEN PRESENTED VORONTSOV WITH A LIST OF THE REQUIREMENTS SUBMITTED LAST NOVEMBER, ANNOTATED TO SHOW ACTION BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO DATE (COPY BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSY). HE REITERATED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS NOT NECESSARILY LOOKING FOR A SINGLE AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD TIE THEIR HEADSTART TO OUR REQUIREMENTS, BUT WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH ACTUAL ACTION ON OUR NEEDS OR FIRM COMMITMENTS THAT THESE REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE FULFILLED WITHOUT ADDITIONAL OBSTACLES.

5. VORONTSOV SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT THE PAPER AND RESPOND IN DUE COURSE ADDING THAT DEPUTY MINISTER KORNIYENKO WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER IN DETAIL WHEN HE COMES TO THE UNGA WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE231244
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: REH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760353-0628
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760945/aaaabmot.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 12376, 76 STATE 194802, 75 STATE 276944
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EARLY CONSTRUCTION OF SOVIET APARTMENT BUILDING IN WASHINGTON
TAGS: ABLD, UR, US
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006